

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

"Guarding the Skies - Lightning Strike"

69th ADA BDE Lineage and Honors

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade was first activated on 17 May 1918 at Fort Worden, Washington, as the 69th Regiment (Coast Artillery Corps). The unit participated in World War I and WWII, earning participation streamers for each. Additionally, the 69th earned a meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer embroidered PACIFIC THEATER during World War II.

Although reorganizing many times throughout its history, the 69th Brigade's longest affiliation began with its designation on 1 April 1960 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Artillery Group. At the time, the 69th was assigned as one of four artillery groups under the operational command of the 32d Air Defense Brigade providing integrated air defense for the central European region. This association and mission continued unbroken for 31 years.

In 1989, the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, in conjunction with elements of the 32d Army Air Defense Command deployed a task force of over 1000 soldiers to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. As the dedicated high and medium altitude air defense asset of the VII US Army Corps, Task Force 8-43 fielded four Patriot firing batteries and two HAWK batteries. The task force provided critical protection to VII Corps as it executed a classic flanking action and raced into Iraq, crushing the vaunted Republican Guard. At the conclusion of the war, Task Force 8-43 was deployed well forward on the battlefield, providing integrated coverage against both hostile aircraft and ballistic missiles.

On 1 September 1991, the 69th Air Defense Brigade was reassigned as the air defense brigade for V Corps. Along with the new assignment came a new mission. Instead of providing primarily area coverage from fixed location, the Brigade is now responsible for the air defense of highly-mobile Corps assets. This new mission was born out of increased requirements to provide dedicated coverage to maneuver units over the depth on an ever-expanding battlefield.

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, "Guarding the Skies", relocated from its headquarters located at Wuerzburg, Germany in the summer of 2008. It was the only Air Defense Artillery Brigade deployed Corps Air Defense Brigade. The Brigade officially uncased its colors at Fort Hood, Texas on 16 September, 2008.

69th ADA BDE Unit Distinctive Insignia

A gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02cm) in height overall consisting of a nebuly edged ellipse divided horizontally wavy light blue and red and bearing in base a gold laurel wreath, overall issuing from base saltirewise two gold beams throughout bearing in saltire two black crossbow bolts with red heads all surmounted in the center by a red cross bottonny, and on a circular gold two-part scroll looped over the base the inscription "GUARDING THE SKIES" in red letters.

Symbolism: Red and yellow (gold) are colors used for artillery. The organization's campaign service in World War I and World War II is commemorated by the two crossbow bolts, the laurel wreath and wavy partition line denote the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Pacific Theater. The unit's origin in the Coast Artillery is indicated by the gold beams. The red cross bottonny alludes to the coat of arms of the 69th Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft) and the unit's direct descent from that organization. The blue upper area and nebuly edge together with the crossbow bolts refer to the air defense mission of the unit and the motto.

Background: The insignia was originally approved for the 69th Artillery Group on 14 Aug 1968. It was redesignated for the 69th Air Defense Artillery Group on 7 Apr 1972. On 3 Jun 1983 the insignia was redesignated for the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

69th ADA BDE Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



On a red rectangular shield arched at the sides 2 inches (5.08cm) in width and 3 inches (7.62cm) in height overall, two yellow five-pointed stars each charged with a black disc, one at bottom right with comet tail arcing toward upper left and one in upper left with comet tail arcing toward bottom right.

Symbolism: The comets allude to flight trajectory and swiftness. The black discs suggest cannon balls. The comets are placed in a defensive posture referring to the unit's mission and resemble the number 69. Their position further suggests the link in defense between Europe and the United States.